

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

In response to numerous formality-based objections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, the claims have been reviewed and amended so as to obviate all such outstanding formal grounds of objection.

The Examiner is thanked for indicating allowable subject matter at dependent claims 2, 4-7, 10 and 12-15. These claims have now been amended above to self-standing independent form and are thus assumed to be in fully allowed condition.


The rejection of claims 1, 3, 8, 9, 11 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §102 as allegedly anticipated by Nitz et al. '670 is respectfully traversed. However, since these claims have been cancelled above without prejudice or disclaimer, this ground of rejection is believed to have been mooted and it is thus not believed necessary to further explain the reasons for such traversal at this point.

Accordingly, this entire application is now believed to be in allowable condition and a formal Notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By:


Larry S. Nixon
Reg. No. 25,640

LSN:vc
901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor
Arlington, VA 22203-1808
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100